

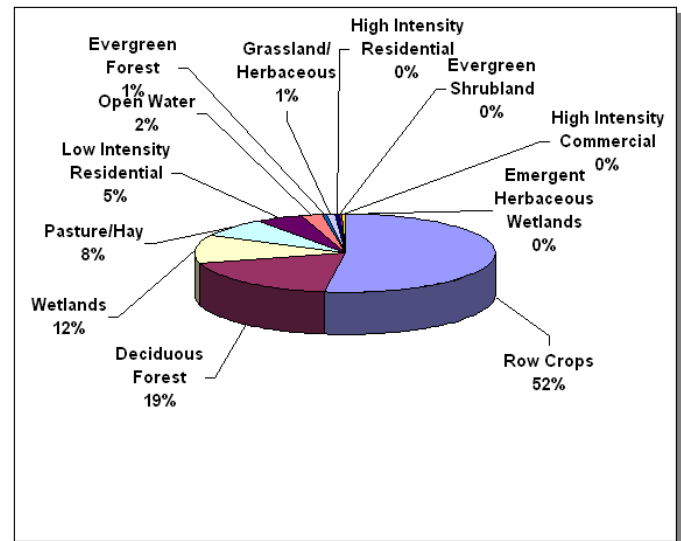
## Summary – North Fork Obion River Watershed (08010202)

In 1996, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control adopted a watershed approach to water quality. This approach is based on the idea that many water quality problems, like the accumulation of point and nonpoint pollutants, are best addressed at the watershed level. Focusing on the whole watershed helps reach the best balance among efforts to control point sources of pollution and polluted runoff as well as protect drinking water sources and sensitive natural resources such as wetlands. Tennessee has chosen to use the USGS 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-8) as the organizing unit.

The Watershed Approach recognizes awareness that restoring and maintaining our waters requires crossing traditional barriers (point vs. nonpoint sources of pollution) when designing solutions. These solutions increasingly rely on participation by both public and private sectors, where citizens, elected officials, and technical personnel all have opportunities to participate. The Watershed Approach provides the framework for a watershed-based and community-based approach to address water quality problems.

Chapter 1 of the North Fork Obion River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan discusses the Watershed Approach and emphasizes that the Watershed Approach is not a regulatory program or an EPA mandate; rather it is a decision-making process that reflects a common strategy for information collection and analysis as well as a common understanding of the roles, priorities, and responsibilities of all stakeholders within a watershed. Traditional activities like permitting, planning and monitoring are also coordinated in the Watershed Approach.

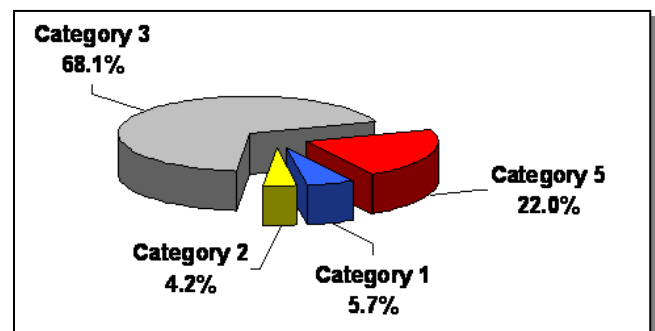
A detailed description of the watershed can be found in Chapter 2. The North Fork Obion River Watershed is approximately 1,313 square miles (1,169 mi<sup>2</sup> in Tennessee) and includes parts of seven Tennessee counties. A part of the Mississippi River drainage basin, the watershed has 1,741.1 stream miles and 15,500 lake acres in Tennessee.



*Land Use Distribution in the Tennessee Portion of the North Fork Obion River Watershed.*

One designated state natural area, two national wildlife refuges, six wildlife management areas, and one stream listed in the National Rivers Inventory are located in the watershed. Forty-five rare plant and animal species have been documented in the watershed, including five rare fish species.

A review of water quality sampling and assessment is presented in Chapter 3. Using the Watershed Approach to Water Quality, 537 sampling events occurred in the North Fork Obion River Watershed in 2000-2005. These were conducted at ambient, ecoregion or watershed monitoring sites. Monitoring results support the conclusion that 31.0% of stream miles assessed fully support one or more designated uses.



*Water Quality Assessment of Streams and Rivers in the Tennessee Portion of the North Fork Obion River Watershed. Assessment data are based on the 2006 Water Quality Assessment of 515.9 stream miles in the watershed.*

Also in Chapter 3, a series of maps illustrates overall use support in the watershed, as well as use support for the individual uses of Fish and Aquatic Life Support, Recreation, Irrigation, and Livestock Watering and Wildlife. Another series of maps illustrates streams that are listed for impairment by specific causes (sediment/habitat alteration, nutrients, E. coli).

Point and Nonpoint Sources are addressed in Chapter 4 which is organized by HUC-12 subwatersheds. Maps illustrating the locations of STORET monitoring sites and stream gauging stations are also presented in each subwatershed.

Point source contributions to the Tennessee portion of the North Fork Obion River Watershed consist of 11 individual NPDES-permitted facilities. Other permits in the watershed (as of October 7, 2008) are CAFO permits (18), mining permits (12), Aquatic Resource Alteration Permits (53), Tennessee Multi-Sector Permits (35), Construction General Permits (31), and Ready Mix Concrete Plant Permits (2). Agricultural operations include cattle, chicken, hog, and sheep farming. Maps illustrating the locations of permit sites and tables summarizing livestock practices are presented in each subwatershed.

Chapter 5 is entitled *Water Quality Partnerships in the North Fork Obion River Watershed* and highlights partnerships between agencies and between agencies and landowners that are essential to success. Programs of federal agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and state agencies (TDEC/State Revolving Fund, TDEC Division of Water Supply, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, West Tennessee River Basin Authority, and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) as well as Kentucky Division of Water) are summarized. Local initiatives of organizations active in the watershed (Friends of West Tennessee Refuges) are also described.

Point and Nonpoint source approaches to water quality problems in the North Fork Obion River Watershed are addressed in Chapter 6. Chapter 6 also includes comments received during public meetings, links to EPA-approved TMDLs in the watershed, and an assessment of needs for the watershed.

HUC-8	HUC-10	HUC-12
08010102	0801020201	080102020101 (North Fork Obion River)
		080102020102 (Walnut Fork)
		080102020103 (Terripen Creek)
		080102020104 (North Fork Obion River )
		080102020105 (Cane Creek)
		080102020106 (Powell Creek)
		080102020107 (Blackamore Creek)
	0801020202	080102020201 (North Fork Obion River)
		080102020202 (Cypress Creek)
		080202020203 (North Fork Obion River)
		080202020204 (Richland Creek)
		080202020205 (North Fork Obion River)
		080202020206 (Harris Fork Creek)
		080202020207 (Needham Creek)
		080202020208 (Houser Creek)
		080202020209 (Little Cypress Creek)
		080202020210 (North Fork Obion River)
	0801020203	080202020301 (Obion River)
		080202020302 (Davidson Creek)
		080202020303 (Grass Creek)
		080202020304 (Dillard Creek)
		080202020305 (Mill Creek)
		080202020306 (Richland Creek)
		080202020307 (Clover Creek)
		080202020308 (Obion River)
		080202020309 (Reeds Creek)
		080202020310 (Biffle Creek)
		080202020311 (Obion River)
		080202020312 (Ray's Creek)
		080202020313 (Obion River)
		080202020314 (West Levee Drainage)
	0801020204	080202020401 (North Reelfoot Creek)
		080202020402 (South Reelfoot Creek)
		080202020403 (Reelfoot Lake)
		080202020404 (Indian Creek)
		080202020405 (Pawpaw Creek)
		080202020406 (Running Reelfoot Bayou)

*The Tennessee Portion of the North Fork Obion River Watershed is Composed of thirty-seven USGS-Delineated Subwatersheds (12-Digit Subwatersheds).*

The full North Fork Obion River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan can be found at: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsm/plans/>